

Application Serial No: 10/519,779
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: August 22, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 22, 2007. Claims 1 and 8 are amended. Claim 1 is amended editorially to include features of claim 7 and is further supported, for example, in Figure 6. Claim 8 is amended editorially to track the amendments to claim 1. Claims 7 and 10-20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are pending.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected as being unpatentable over Akimoto (US Patent No. 7,161,630) in view of Hong (US Patent No. 6,801,483). Claims 7, 8 and 12 are rejected as being unpatentable over Akimoto, in view of Hong, and further in view of Tochigi (US Patent No. 5,963,378). These rejections are traversed. As claim 1 is amended to include features of claim 7, Applicant argues both of these rejections together, to the extent that each rejection applies.

Claim 1 is directed to an image sensor module that requires, among other features a lens unit comprising a combination of a first lens and a second lens, the first lens including a flat contact face and a concave lens face, the second lens including a flat contact face for contact with the flat contact face of the first lens, the second lens further including a convex lens face that is spaced from the concave lens face and projects beyond the flat contact faces of the first and second lenses into a recessed space defined by the concave lens face of the first lens. An advantage of these features is that the lens unit to be compact while allowing the contact face of one lens to accurately locate the other lens.

The combination of Akimoto, Hong and Tochigi does not teach or suggest these features. The Office Action relies on Tochigi for teaching a lens unit comprising a combination of a first lens and a second lens, the first lens having a concave lens face, the second lens member having a convex lens face that is spaced from the concave lens face. However, nowhere does Tochigi teach or suggest a first lens including a flat contact face and a second lens including a flat contact face for contact with the flat contact face of the first lens. In contrast, Tochigi only teaches a combination of convex and concave lenses (see Figures 1, 3, 5, 7, etc. of Tochigi). Neither Akimoto nor Hong overcome these

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deficiencies of Tochigi as both references merely teach a lens unit comprising a single lens. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claims 10, 11, 13 and 15-20 are rejected as being unpatentable over Akimoto. This rejection is traversed. As claims 10, 11, 13 and 15-20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 14 is rejected as being unpatentable over Akimoto in view of Sugiura (US Patent No. 5,225,936). This rejection is traversed. As claim 14 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, this rejection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



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Respectfully submitted,

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